

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ L. _____

Date: _____ January 12, 2005 _____

Topic: Final Review of a Proposal Regarding Establishing Standards of Learning Testing Windows

Presenter: Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Reporting

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Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

☒ Board review required by
_____ State or federal law or regulation
_____ Board of Education regulation
☒ Other: Previous Board Action

_____ Action requested at this meeting

_____ Action requested at future meeting: _____

Previous Review/Action:

_____ No previous board review/action
☒ Previous review/action:
date: 11/30/00 and 11/17/04
action: Adoption of policy (11/30/00)
First review of proposal (11/17/04)

Background Information: In the early years of the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment program, the Virginia Department of Education set a testing window for each school division based on the last day of school in that division. In November 2000, the Board of Education adopted a resolution allowing school divisions to administer the SOL tests as late as the last day of school. This policy was adopted in response to school divisions' requests for increased instructional time before the administration of the tests. However, the current policy increases the exposure of test forms, interferes with the ability of the testing contractor to deliver materials on time and to complete the statistical work necessary to report scores, and makes it difficult for Department staff to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) by the deadlines required by the No Child Left Behind Act as well as to calculate accreditation ratings in a timely fashion.

Summary of Major Elements: The Board of Education is asked to adopt a policy establishing three testing windows for the spring administration for the Standards of Learning tests in grades 3-8 beginning with the 2005-2006 school year. The policy would require that school divisions choose one of three established testing windows for the administration of the SOL tests in grades

3-8. School divisions would continue to have the flexibility to set their own testing windows for the end-of-course tests.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education adopt the proposal to establish testing windows for the Standards of Learning tests beginning in 2005-2006.

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A